

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)	
)	
Masahiko HASUNUMA et al.)	
)	Group Art Unit: Not assigned
Application No.: Not Yet Assigned)	
)	Examiner: Not assigned
Filed: March 26, 2004)	
)	
For: SEMICONDUCTOR DEVICE)	
)	

**Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450**

Sir:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§1.56 and 1.97(b), applicants bring to the Examiner's attention the documents listed on attached Form PTO-1449. Except for the U.S. documents, copies of the listed documents are attached. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the documents listed on attached Form PTO-1449 and indicate that they were considered by making an appropriate notation on this form.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed with the above-referenced application.

The following is a concise statement of relevance of the non-English language document:

1. Japanese Patent Application No. 2000-277465 discloses a seal ring structure disposed at the slicing line position. The relevance of this document is

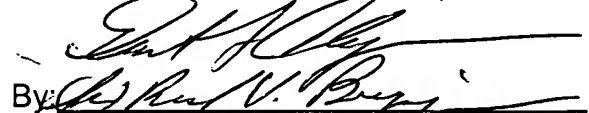

discussed at page 1 of the specification of the present application. An English language abstract of this document is also enclosed.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that each or all of the listed documents are material or constitute "prior art." If the Examiner applies any of the documents as prior art against any claim in the application and applicants determine that the cited documents do not constitute "prior art" under United States law, applicants reserve the right to present to the Office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such documents. Applicants further reserve the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should one or more of the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Statement, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.


By: 

Richard V. Burguffan
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Dated: March 26, 2004

Enclosures
RVB/FPD/dvg

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION

Atty. Docket No.	04173.0447	Application No.	
Applicant	Masahiko HASUNUMA et al.		
Filing Date	March 26, 2004	Group:	Not assigned

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initial*	Document Number	Issue Date	Name	Class	Sub Class	Filing Date If Appropriate
	6,424,051 B1	7/23/02	Shinogi et al.			
	5,296,745	3/22/94	Shirai et al.			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Document Number	Publication Date	Country	Class	Sub Class	Translation Yes or No	
2000-277465	10/6/00	Japan			Abstract	

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)	

Examiner	Date Considered
<p>*Examiner: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.</p>	
Form PTO 1449	Patent and Trademark Office - U.S. Department of Commerce